

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as filed in the previous Office Action and, thus, are not narrowing amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 1 stands objected to because "a first portion flaking" should be - - a first portion flanking - -. Claim 1 has been amended to correct this informality. This objection should now be moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 7-14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 56-20927 (JP '927) in view of JP 3-59623 (JP '623). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that JP '937 teaches a liquid crystal display apparatus that is basically the same as that recited in claim 1 and 7 except for the sealing member having a conductive material. The Examiner further alleges that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the liquid crystal display apparatus of JP '927 with the sealing member having a conductive material as taught by JP '623 so as to facilitate the manufacturing process and to obtain sufficient conduction between the first and second substrate terminals.

Claim 1 calls for a second input terminal located adjacent to the first edge of the first substrate that has a first portion flanking one side of the first input terminal and a second portion flanking another side of the first input terminal. This is depicted, for example, in Figure 1 where the second input terminal includes portions 82 that flank the first input terminal 81. Claim 1 also calls for first and second substrate terminals which, for example, are depicted in Figure 2 as numerals 11 and 70, respectively. As claimed, the first substrate terminal and the second substrate terminal are electrically connected to each other with a conductive material between the first and second portions of the second input terminal. This is shown, for example, in Figure 5 where it can be seen that the conductive area between the substrates is located between the portions 82 of the second input terminal. JP '927 does not teach such a configuration.

Referring to Figure 1(a) of JP '927, it can be seen that the sealing member 10 traverses the entire length of the substrate 1 and therefore, across all terminals disposed thereon. As such, the combination of JP '927 and JP '623 proposed by the Examiner does not yield the claimed invention. More particularly, the combination of JP '927 and JP '623 yields electrical conduction between the first and second substrate terminals over the entire length of the substrate 1 and across all terminals thereon. This contrasts with the claimed invention. As stated above, the first substrate terminal and the second substrate terminal are electrically connected to each other with a conductive material between the first and second portions of the second input terminal. As such, the first and second portions of the second input terminal are free of conductive material. JP '927 contains no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to utilize such a configuration. Without such a teaching, suggestion, or motivation, it would not have

been obvious to modify the teachings of JP '927, the teachings of JP '623, or the combination thereof.

Further, in JP '927, the terminals 8 are electrically connected to the terminals 7, but the electrical connection is conducted along the terminals 4 and 9, not between one side of the terminals 4 and other side of the terminals 4. That is, JP '927 does not teach, suggest, or provide motivation to utilize the claimed invention's technical idea of electrically connecting the terminals 8 to the terminals 7 at an area between portions of the terminals 4 so as to utilize the area adjacent to the terminals 4. Also, in JP '623, the second input terminal of the claimed invention is not disclosed. As such, neither JP '927 nor JP '623 teach, suggest, or provide motivation to arrive at the claimed electrical connection of the first substrate terminal the second substrate terminal between the first and second portions of the second input terminal.

Moreover, the proposed combination of JP '927 and JP '623 teaches away from the claimed liquid crystal display. That is, the proposed combination of JP '927 and JP '623 teaches a configuration the claimed invention intends to avoid. More specifically, the Examiner's alleged combination yields a configuration that is similar to Figure 14 of the present invention. When there is electrical conduction over the length of the substrate as shown in Figure 14, there is a problem with the occurrence of a short-circuit between the substrates. In contrast, the liquid crystal display as called for in claim 1 does not have a short circuit problem. This is due to the first substrate terminal and the second substrate terminal being electrically connected to each other with a conductive material between the first and second portions of the second input terminal. As such, since the proposed combination of JP '927 and JP '623 teaches away from the

claimed liquid crystal display, it would not have been obvious to combine their teachings to arrive at the claimed invention.

Claim 7 has been amended to call for the electrical conduction between the substrates to be performed at the central portion of the second substrate. Applicant respectfully asserts that the gist and thrust of this amendment is supported by claim 1 and, therefore, is not a new issue requiring further consideration and/or search. As stated above, the proposed combination of JP '927 and JP '623 teaches electrical conduction over the entire substrate. As claim 7 has been amended to call for electrical conduction between the substrates to occur at the central portion of the substrate, JP '927 and JP '623 teach away from the liquid crystal display of claim 7 by teaching electrical conduction over the entire length of the substrate. As such, it would not have been obvious to modify the teachings of JP '927, JP '623, or any combination thereof to arrive at the claimed invention.

With respect to dependent claims 2, 8-14, and 16, these claims are dependent on independent claims 1 and 7, and are not obvious for at least the same reasons as stated above.

Claims 3-6, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 56-20927 (JP '927) in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,959,713). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to modify the liquid crystal display apparatus of JP '927 with the teaching of Kobayashi by employing a driving IC mounted on the second substrate, and arranging a wiring pattern such that the driving IC has an input terminal being electrically connected to the first input terminal 9, and an

output terminal being electrically connected to the second substrate terminal 8 so as to simplify the circuits of display.

Claim 4 has been amended to call for the electrical connection between the first substrate terminal and the second substrate terminal to be performed between the portions of the second electrode pattern that flank the second substrate terminal. This amendment is also supported by presently pending claim 1, and does not constitute a new issue that requires further consideration and/or search. The proposed combination of JP '927 and Kobayashi does not teach such a configuration. More particularly, both JP '927 (sealing member 10) and Kobayashi (sealing member 3) teach electrical connection over the entire length of the substrate. This teaches away from the claimed electrical connection between the first substrate terminal and the second substrate terminal to be performed between the portions of the second electrode pattern that flank the second substrate terminal. As JP '927 and Kobayashi teach away from the claimed invention, it would not have been obvious to modify JP '927, Kobayashi, or the combination thereof to arrive at the claimed invention.

Dependent claims 3, 5, 6, and 15, are also not obvious for at least the same reasons as their independent base claims, respectively. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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